CHAPTER 6
THE CASE OF THE MT. KURAMA ESTATE INHERITANCE (PART 2)

...WERE BURNED BY SOMEONE

THE THREE HANGING SCROLLS...

OF COURSE...

I'M SURE IT MUST BE AWKWARD TO BE PUT ON THE SPOT FOR A CASE LIKE THAT.

EH, MR. GREAT DETECTIVE?

I'M ONLY CALLED "HOLMES" BECAUSE MY NAME IS YAGASHIRA.

I HAVE A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS.

IT'S LIKE HE'S TRYING TO PROVOKE HOLMES-SAN...

BUT VERY WELL.

I'LL FIND THE CULPRIT.

I CAN'T TAKE THAT FROM A FRIVOLOUS, ARROGANT, OVERBEARING MAN LIKE HIM.

PSST

ARE YOU SURE?

HE'S SURPRISINGLY COMPETITIVE...

JUST TO CONFIRM, THEN...

THERE'S NO CHANCE THAT IT COULD HAVE BEEN AN OUTSIDE PARTY?

WE ALL SPENT THAT NIGHT HERE AT THE VILLA TOGETHER.

THE DAY THE SAFE WAS OPENED, WE ALL HAD SOME WINE...

AND SHARED STORIES ABOUT DAD LONG INTO THE NIGHT.

INDEED, WE'RE QUITE SURE.

IN OTHER WORDS...

WHOEVER BURNED THEM HAD TO HAVE DONE IT IN THE BRIEF TIME EVERYONE ELSE WAS ASLEEP.

AND THE FOLLOWING MORNING, WE FOUND THE SCROLLS BURNED IN THE GARDEN.

NO.

DID ANYONE ELSE KNOW ABOUT THE HANGING SCROLLS IN THE WILL?

IT'S TRUE IT CERTAINLY DOESN'T SEEM REALISTIC...

...FOR SOMEONE TO HAVE BROKEN IN DURING THAT TIME.

WHY WOULD SOMEONE BURN THEM, ANYWAY?

I COULD UNDERSTAND STEALING THEM, BUT...

BUT THEY'D ONLY FETCH LESS THAN A HUNDRED THOUSAND YEN.

WHO WOULD GO OUT OF THEIR WAY TO STEAL JUNK?

MAYBE THE CULPRIT BURNED DECOYS...

...AND MADE OFF WITH THE REAL ONES.

MAYBE THE APPRAISER MADE A MISTAKE.

MAYBE THEY WERE ACTUALLY WORTH A FORTUNE AND ONLY THE CULPRIT KNEW IT.

BUT IT'S TRUE...

WHY, INSTEAD OF STEALING THEM OR THROWING THEM AWAY...

...WOULD ANYBODY BURN THEM?

JUNK?

YANAGI-HARA-SENSEI.

HE HAPPENED TO BE AT KURAMA HOT SPRINGS AT THE TIME.

WE CALLED HIM AND HE CAME RIGHT AWAY.

BY THE WAY, WHO WAS THE APPRAISER?

AH, YANAGIHARA-SENSEI...

YOU KNOW HIM?

HE'S AN OLD FRIEND OF THE OWNER.

SO THAT'S HOW HE KNEW THE RUMORS ABOUT HOLMES-SAN...

IF YANAGIHARA-SENSEI APPRAISED THE SCROLLS, THERE CAN BE NO DOUBT ABOUT HIS VALUATION.

HMPH

Ah!
LIKE A SECRET FORTUNE!
THEN COULD THEY BE HIDING SOME SECRET OF MY FATHER'S?
...WHAT?
NOTHING.
I WAS JUST THINKING THAT YOU HAVE QUITE A VIVID IMAGINATION.
SNICKER
HEY!
ENOUGH, AKIHITO.

AKIHITO WANTED TO BE AN ACTOR INSTEAD OF GOING TO SCHOOL.

THAT'S WHY HE RAN AWAY FROM HOME.

THAT'S NOT TRUE!

I'M SORRY. HE'S GOT SOMETHING OF A COMPLEX ABOUT PRESTIGIOUS SCHOOLS.

HE HEARD YOU WERE A STUDENT AT KYOTO UNIVERSITY, SO...

AKIHITO-SAN IS AN ACTOR?

LATELY HE'S EVEN STARTED APPEARING IN TV SHOWS AND MOVIES, ALBEIT MINOR ROLES.

BUT HE KEPT BOASTING ABOUT WANTING TO ACHIEVE FAME ON HIS OWN.

HE COULD HAVE GOTTEN WORK EASILY BY USING HIS FATHER'S NAME,

YES, THAT'S RIGHT.

CUT IT OUT... THIS IS EMBARRASSING.

AKIHITO-SAN CERTAINLY IS HANDSOME!

IF A LITTLE ON THE LOUD SIDE...

!

REALLY? YOU'RE MAKING ME BLUSH.

ANYWAY...

FUNNY GRIN

MIGHT I ASK YOU SOME QUESTIONS INDIVIDUALLY?

I'LL START WITH FUYUKI-SAN.

PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME, AGE, AND OCCUPATION.

YOU WANT TO HEAR ALL THAT?

KAJIWARA FUYUKI, AGE 32.

I WAS A STUDENT IN TOKYO UNIVERSITY'S ECONOMICS DEPARTMENT, AND NOW I RUN AN IT COMPANY.

THAT'S ABOUT IT.

SO YOU RUN A BUSINESS?

COULD YOU TELL ME THE NAME OF YOUR COMPANY?

I HEAR IT'S A WELL-REGARDED COMPANY WHOSE STOCK IS ON THE RISE.

YOU'VE HEARD OF IT?

THAT TOO? IT'S CALLED WEST JAPAN.

HE'S EVEN GOING TO ASK ABOUT THAT?

WHAT DID YOU THINK OF YOUR SHARE OF THE INHERITANCE?

BEFORE DAD DIED, HE SAID HE'D SPLIT THINGS UP EVENLY BETWEEN US THREE BROTHERS.

KNOWING THAT'S HOW IT WOULD BE, I DIDN'T THINK MUCH ABOUT IT.

THE INHERI-TANCE?

SENSEI WAS NEVER AFRAID TO SPEND ON WORTHWHILE THINGS, YOU SEE.

EVEN THOUGH HE HAD THIS LUXURIOUS VILLA?

MY FATHER WAS PARTICULAR ABOUT HIS MONEY,

SO NONE OF US GOT VERY MUCH.

WHAT DID YOU THINK WHEN YOU FIRST SAW IT?

FUYUKI-SAN, YOU SAID YOUR SCROLL WAS OF TAIRA NO KIYOMORI, CORRECT?

I SEE.

I ASSUMED HE JUST LEFT IT TO ME BECAUSE HE LIKED KIYOMORI.

I'M NOT SURE WHAT TO SAY...

KAJIWARA AKIHITO, AGE 25.

I'M AN ACTOR WITH AK COMPANY.

NOW, AKIHITO-SAN, IF YOU WILL...

ME NEXT?

THAT'S IT?!

THANK YOU. WE'RE DONE.

FUYUKI MENTIONED HIM SPLITTING THINGS EVENLY...

BUT DAD HAD TOLD ME HE WASN'T GONNA GIVE ANYTHING TO SOME PRODIGAL SON,

SO I WAS ACTUALLY SURPRISED I GOT ANYTHING AT ALL.

FORGIVE ME. I COULDN'T HELP IT.

NOW, HOW DID YOU FEEL ABOUT YOUR SHARE OF THE INHERITANCE?

da da GRR...

AND WHAT DID YOU THINK OF YOUR SCROLL?

I WAS HONESTLY REALLY HAPPY ABOUT IT.

I LOVE HOKUSAI.

I KNEW IT WAS A RE-PRODUCTION, BUT I JUST THOUGHT IT WAS COOL.

I SEE.

I'M NEXT, RIGHT?

NOW...

KAJIWARA HARUHIKO. I JUST TURNED TWENTY.

I'M CURRENTLY ATTENDING KYOTO PREFECTURAL UNIVERSITY.

I WENT TO KYOTO PREFECTURAL, TOO.

I ONLY TRANSFERRED TO KYOTO U AS A GRADUATE.

OH, I SEE!

MAYBE I'LL DO THAT, TOO.

Hey now...

HOW COME I'M THE ONLY ONE HE'S RUDE TO?

YOU PICKED ON HIM FIRST.

REGARDING THE INHERITANCE...

TO BE HONEST, I THOUGHT WE HAD A LITTLE MORE MONEY.

MAYBE IT WAS JUST MY IMAGINATION.

BUT DAD...

HE WAS ALWAYS TREATING PEOPLE WHO'D HELPED HIM OUT TO DINNER.

SOMETIMES HE'D EVEN TREAT PERFECT STRANGERS HE HAPPENED TO MEET IN RESTAURANTS.

HE COULD BE EXTRAVAGANT, SO I GET IT.

...

HARUHIKO-SAN, YOU'RE THE YOUNGEST OF YOUR BROTHERS.

WAS YOUR FATHER, KAJIWARA-SENSEI, ESPECIALLY HARD ON YOU? OR PERHAPS ESPECIALLY LENIENT?

WAS HE...?

Yeah.

HE WAS THE BABY.

DAD ALWAYS WENT EASY ON HARUHIKO.

REALLY?

THAT'S PROBABLY JUST BECAUSE I WAS ALWAYS WATCHING THE TWO OF YOU,

AND LEARNED WHAT TO DO AND WHAT NOT TO DO TO STAY IN HIS GOOD GRACES.

I get that. My little brother's the same way.

Yup, yup.

HOW DID YOU FEEL ABOUT YOUR SCROLL?

BUT WHY IS HOLMES-SAN ASKING THESE THINGS?

WELL, HOW TO PUT IT...

I DIDN'T REALLY GET IT, YOU KNOW?

I DIDN'T KNOW IT WAS TAIRA NO TADAMORI UNTIL YANAGIHARA-SENSEI TOLD ME.

I RECOGNIZED MY BROTHERS' PAINTINGS AS KIYOMORI AND MT. FUJI RIGHT AWAY.

BUT WITH MINE, IT WAS LIKE, "HUH?"

IT WAS A FOREST AT NIGHT.

THERE WAS AN OLD MONK AND A LANTERN,

AND A MILITARY MAN WALKING TOWARDS THEM.

WHAT EXACTLY WAS IT A PICTURE OF?

UM, I'M PRETTY SURE...

A LAN-TERN...

HOLMES-SAN?

WHAT ABOUT YOUR TWO PAINTINGS?

MINE WAS AN UNPAINTED BACK-GROUND...

...BEHIND MT. FUJI AND A BLACK DRAGON CLIMBING TO HEAVEN.

LET ME SEE...

KIYOMORI WAS STANDING ON SOMETHING LIKE A STAGE.

HE WAS FACING THE SUN IN THE BACKGROUND AND HOLDING HIS FAN UP TO IT, SORT OF.

YES, I SEE NOW...

SLUMP

NOW, AYAKO-SAN,

COULD I ASK YOU TO INTRODUCE YOURSELF AS WELL?

!

YOU MEAN YOU KNOW WHO DID IT?!

I'M... 53 YEARS OLD.

SHE'S BEAUTI-FUL...

KAJIWARA AYAKO.

DID YOU KNOW THAT KAJIWARA-SENSEI HAD PREPARED THESE SCROLLS FOR HIS SONS?

KAJIWARA WAS SEVEN YEARS MY SENIOR.

WE MARRIED WHEN I WAS TWENTY.

WHEN WERE YOU MARRIED?

BUT I'D NEVER HEARD OF HIM COLLECTING HANGING SCROLLS, SO I WAS QUITE SURPRISED.

KAJIWARA WAS A MAN OF MANY HOBBIES...

I HAD NO IDEA.

DID SENSEI LEAVE ANYTHING TO YOU?

NO. EXCEPT...

BEFORE HE PASSED, HE DID GIVE ME THIS RING.

IT'S MY BIRTHSTONE, AN AQUA-MARINE.

YOU WERE BORN IN MARCH, THEN?

YOU COULD TELL?

KURASHINA-SAN, IF YOU PLEASE.

NOW, LASTLY...

CURRENTLY, I'M MANAGING HIS LITERARY ESTATE,

AND SEEING THAT HIS WIFE IS TAKEN CARE OF.

KURASHINA YOHEI, AGE 42.

I WORKED AS KAJIWARA-SENSEI'S SECRETARY.

HOW DID YOU BECOME KAJIWARA-SENSEI'S SECRETARY?

WHAT?!

I USED TO BE PART OF A BIKER GANG.

WELL, IT'S A BIT EMBARRASSING TO ADMIT, BUT...

WHEN I WAS EIGHTEEN YEARS OLD, I GOT IN TROUBLE WITH THE LAW.

KAJIWARA-SENSEI WAS THE LAWYER WHO GOT ME OUT OF IT.

GIGGLE

IT MUST BE QUITE SURPRI-SING...

...TO LEARN THAT SOMEONE SO STRAITLACED USED TO BE IN A GANG.

S-SORRY...

BLUSH

かぁぁ

HE ENDED UP EMPLOYING ME AS HIS DRIVER.

I STARTED HANGING AROUND, ASKING IF I COULD HELP HIM SOME-HOW.

I BECAME DEVOTED TO HIM.

I WAS A FOOL, BUT HE DID SO MUCH FOR ME...

DAD EVEN OWED KURASHINA-SAN HIS LIFE!

HE'S BEEN DAD'S RIGHT-HAND MAN FOR AS LONG AS I CAN REMEMBER.

KURASHINA-SAN IS AN AMAZING PERSON.

BUT REGARD-LESS OF WHAT STARTED IT,

WHEN SENSEI WROTE *POWER STRUGGLE*,

HE MADE THE CRIME SYNDICATE IT WAS BASED ON ANGRY.

ONE OF THEIR HOT-BLOODED YOUNG MEMBERS CAME AT HIM WITH A KNIFE...

HIS LIFE?

IT'S NOTHING AS SERIOUS AS ALL THAT.

I WAS SO DESPERATE TO PROTECT HIM THAT I RUSHED RIGHT IN...

I JUMPED IN FRONT OF THE KNIFE...

...AND GOT STABBED FOR MY TROUBLES.

THE GANG AGREED TO SETTLE THINGS PEACEFULLY WITH DAD IN EXCHANGE FOR NOT MAKING THE INCIDENT PUBLIC.

AND THAT'S WHEN KURASHINA-SAN WENT FROM DRIVER TO SECRETARY.

SQUEEZE

THINKING ABOUT IT, I'M JUST SO GRATEFUL TO KURASHINA-SAN.

IF KURASHINA-SAN HADN'T SAVED DAD,

I NEVER WOULD HAVE BEEN BORN.

YES, I SEE.

I SEE...

WELL...

THAT'S EVERYONE, RIGHT?

...

SO?

HAVE YOU FINGERED THE CULPRIT YET, MR. GREAT DETECTIVE?

AKIHITO-NIISAN...

YOU WANT A LOOK AT THE BURNED SCROLLS?

THEY MIGHT CONTAIN A CLUE.

I KNEW IT. HE'S GOT NO IDEA.

THERE WAS NEVER ANY NEED TO INSPECT THEM.

THE SCROLLS WEREN'T SWAPPED,

AND THEY WEREN'T TAMPERED WITH.

THAT WON'T BE NECES-SARY.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN? OUT WITH IT.

THE MESSAGE?

IT WAS...

STOP IT!

THE INTENT OF THE CULPRIT...

...WAS TO ERASE THE MESSAGE OF THE SCROLLS.

...MOM?

NOT BEING MENTIONED IN THE SECOND WILL, I JUST GOT MADDER AND MADDER...

SO I GOT DRUNK AND I BURNED THE SCROLLS!

I'M THE ONE WHO DID IT!

HOLD ON A MINUTE!

I DIDN'T THINK YOU'D MAKE SUCH A BIG DEAL OUT OF IT.

WHERE'D THIS COME FROM, MOM?

BUT WHEN I WOKE UP THE NEXT MORNING, SOBER, I REALIZED WHAT A CHILDISH THING I'D DONE...

I WAS JUST TOO EMBARRASSED TO ADMIT IT.

HOLMES-SAN...

...

I'M SORRY FOR BRINING YOU TWO OUT HERE FOR NOTHING.

KURASHINA-SAN WILL SHOW YOU THE WAY OUT.

MA'AM!

WAIT, MOM!

SHALL WE GO, AOI-SAN?

HUH? ARE YOU SURE?

WE DID SOLVE THE MYSTERY.

LIM...

HOLD ON.

MOM WOULDN'T HAVE BURNED THE SCROLLS DAD LEFT US OVER SOMETHING SO PETTY...

YOU KNOW THE REASON HER ATTITUDE CHANGED SO SUDDENLY, DON'T YOU?

WE CAN'T JUST LEAVE THINGS AT THAT.

BUT DAD ENTRUSTED THOSE SCROLLS TO US.

PLEASE TELL US.

SO... I THINK WE NEED TO KNOW THE TRUTH.

YOU MAY WISH I HADN'T TOLD YOU...

IT'S CLEAR THAT AYAKO-SAN DOESN'T WANT YOU TO KNOW.

WHAT IS OUR MOTHER TRYING TO HIDE?

WHAT WAS THE MESSAGE IN THE SCROLLS?

IT'S FROM THE KABUKI PLAY *ITSUKUSHIMA MANEKU HIOGI.*

IT'S KNOWN AS "KIYOMORI CALLS BACK THE SETTING SUN."

THE SCROLL LEFT TO YOU, FUYUKI-SAN...

THE SUN IS SETTING BEFORE THEY CAN PERFORM AN IMPORTANT RITUAL.

SO BASED ON THE OLD LEGEND OF A CHINESE EMPEROR WHO SHOT DOWN NINE SUNS...

LO AND BEHOLD, THE SUN DOES INDEED RETURN.

KIYOMORI WAVES HIS FAN TO GET THE SUN TO RISE AGAIN.

IT'S A DEPICTION OF THE EXTENT OF KIYOMORI'S POWER.

SO GREAT THAT HE COULD MOVE EVEN THE SETTING SUN.

BUT THE HEIKE CLAN EVENTUALLY MET ITS END, AS YOU WELL KNOW.

THERE'S A CERTAIN SARCASM WRIT INTO SUCH A DEPICTION OF THE PROUD KIYOMORI.

I BELIEVE THAT KAJIWARA-SENSEI...

...MEANT TO ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR CURRENT SMASHING SUCCESS IN BUSINESS...

...WHILE WARNING YOU NOT TO SUCCUMB TO HUBRIS,

LEST YOU FIND IT ALL CRASHING DOWN AROUND YOU.

NEXT, AKIHITO-SAN'S SCROLL...

DAD... HE REALLY WAS WATCHING ME CLOSELY.

I... I SEE.

THEY SAY HOKUSAI PAINTED IT JUST THREE MONTHS BEFORE HE PASSED.

"DRAGON FLYING OVER MT. FUJI."

IN OTHER WORDS, "IF I COULD HAVE LIVED FIVE YEARS MORE, I COULD HAVE BECOME A TRUE ARTIST."

THAT'S WHAT HE WAS SAYING.

"SHOULD HEAVEN HAVE GRANTED ME ANOTHER FIVE YEARS, TRUE ART MIGHT HAVE BEEN WITHIN MY GRASP."

HOKUSAI DIED AT AGE 90, BUT HIS LAST WORDS WERE...

IT'S POSSIBLE THAT THE DRAGON FLYING TO HEAVEN...

...IS A PROJECTION OF HOKUSAI'S OWN DESIRES TO REACH EVEN GREATER HEIGHTS.

HE WAS ALREADY KNOWN AS A MASTER ARTIST AND UKIYO-E PAINTER

BUT AT THE TIME OF HIS DEATH, HOKUSAI REGRETTED NOT BEING BETTER AT HIS ART.

YOU SHOULD AIM HIGH LIKE HOKUSAI DID.

IT SAYS THAT IF YOU TRULY WISH TO PURSUE YOUR ART...

I BELIEVE THAT SCROLL CONTAINS A MESSAGE OF STRONG ENCOURAGEMENT FOR YOU.

DAD...

I GUESS THAT MEANS MOM'S SECRET INVOLVES HARUHIKO, THEN?

ALL RIGHT. I PROMISE.

NOW, REGARDING HARUHIKO-SAN'S SCROLL...

PROMISE ME THIS.

YOU WILL KEEP THIS TO YOURSELVES UNTIL THE TIME IS RIGHT.

HARUHIKO-SAN'S SCROLL DEPICTS A SCENE FROM *THE TALE OF THE HEIKE.*

IT'S KNOWN AS "TADAMORI'S LANTERN."

TAIRA NO TADAMORI WAS KIYOMORI'S FATHER, AND A WARRIOR IN SERVICE TO THE FORMER EMPEROR SHIRAKAWA.

ONE DAY, SHIRAKAWA CAME TO THE CITY TO MEET HIS BELOVED CONCUBINE, GION NO NYOGO,

AND FOUND HIMSELF FACE TO FACE WITH AN ONI-LIKE CREATURE.

"TADAMORI'S LANTERN"?

...WAS SIMPLY AN OLD MONK ATTEMPTING TO LIGHT A LANTERN.

IT TURNED OUT THAT WHAT APPEARED TO BE AN ONI...

HE ORDERED TADAMORI TO DISPATCH THE MONSTER.

BUT TADAMORI CAPTURED IT ALIVE TO ASCERTAIN ITS TRUE NATURE.

THE REST OF THIS IS MERELY SPECULATION, BUT...

AND THAT KIYOMORI WAS BORN AS A RESULT OF THAT UNION.

...GRANTED TADAMORI ONE NIGHT WITH HIS CONCUBINE, GION NO NYOGO, AS A REWARD.

PEOPLE SAY THAT SHIRAKAWA, PLEASED WITH TADAMORI'S PRUDENCE IN SPARING THE MONK'S LIFE...

WHY GIVE THAT TO HARUHIKO-SAN?

AS THANKS FOR HIS HELP...

...HE LENT HIS BELOVED TO HIS SERVANT...

...WHO THEN BORE A CHILD OF HIS?

ARE YOU SAYING...

HARUHIKO ISN'T OUR FATHER'S CHILD?

NO WAY!

<GASP!

THEN WHOSE CHILD IS H—

IT WAS ABOUT TWENTY YEARS AGO THAT KURASHINA-SAN RISKED HIS LIFE...

...TO PROTECT KAJIWARA-SENSEI.

"KAJIWARA HARUHIKO. I JUST TURNED TWENTY."

AFTER EVERYONE WENT TO BED THAT NIGHT, AYAKO-SAN LIKELY READ UP ON THOSE PICTURES.

SHE REALIZED WHAT THEY MEANT,

AND WITHOUT THINKING, BURNED THE SCROLLS TO HIDE THE TRUTH.

BUT WHY WOULD DAD DO SOME-THING LIKE THAT?

THE WAY HE LOOKED AT HER..

I'M SURE THAT KURASHINA-SAN...

KAJIWARA-SENSEI MUST HAVE REALIZED THAT, TOO.

...HAS ALWAYS HAD A PLACE FOR AYAKO-SAN IN HIS HEART.

I CAN ONLY SPECULATE, OF COURSE,

BUT I BELIEVE KAJIWARA-SENSEI WHOLEHEARTEDLY ACCEPTED KURASHINA-SAN...

SO HE DID NOT BELIEVE HARUHIKO-SAN'S PARENTAGE WAS A SECRET WORTH HIDING.

HE'D LIKELY MADE UP HIS MIND TO TELL HARUHIKO-SAN EVERYTHING WHEN HE TURNED TWENTY.

THAT'S WHY THE SECOND WILL WAS TO BE OPENED THREE MONTHS LATER.

I SEE...

BUT... WHAT ARE WE SUPPOSED TO DO ABOUT THIS?

YOU SAW HOW MOM REACTED...

HE GAVE AYAKO-SAN AN AQUAMARINE RING AS A PRESENT.

STONES SYMBOLIZE THINGS, JUST AS FLOWERS DO.

WAIT, THERE'S MORE?

THAT REMINDS ME. THERE'S ONE MORE THING SENSEI WISHED TO CONVEY.

AN AQUAMARINE REPRESENTS SILENCE, WISDOM...

AND FREEDOM.

I SEE...

KAJIWARA-SENSEI...

...WANTED AYAKO-SAN TO CHOOSE HOW TO LIVE HER LIFE FROM HERE.

YES... I'M SURE THAT'S WHAT HE WANTED.

FREEDOM?

SIGH

...MAYBE HE THOUGHT HE COULD ENTRUST AYAKO-SAN TO KURASHINA-SAN FOR REAL.

THIS TIME...

I UNDER-STAND.

I'LL FIND THE RIGHT TIME... AND TELL HARUHIKO MYSELF.

I'M SURE SHE'LL ACCEPT IT.

MOM, TOO.

ONCE SHE HEARS WHAT DAD WAS TRYING TO TELL HER...

I SEE.

THAT'S LIKELY FOR THE BEST.

I CON-CEDE.

YOU REALLY ARE HOLMES.

BUT YOU'RE PRETTY AMAZING AFTER ALL.

AGAIN, I'VE NEVER ACTUALLY REFERRED TO MYSELF AS SUCH.

I NEVER THOUGHT THIS IS HOW IT WOULD TURN OUT.

I FIGURED IT WAS JUST MY BIG BROTHER BEING SPITEFUL.

HEY!

WHEN DID YOU FIRST REALIZE IT?

YOU REALLY WERE AMAZING THIS TIME, THOUGH.

SO I ASSUMED WHATEVER IT WAS HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH THAT.

WELL, I COULD TELL KURASHINA-SAN AND HARUHIKO-SAN WERE FATHER AND SON FROM THE START...

WHA?

HUH?

THEIR EARS!!

THEIR EARS WERE THE SAME.

ARE YOU KIDDING ME? HOW'D YOU KNOW?!

AND, "I WONDER IF AYAKO-SAN AND KURASHIMA-SAN HAD AN AFFAIR."

SO I THOUGHT, "THAT MAN MUST BE HIS FATHER."

ONLY BLOOD RELATIVES CAN HAVE IDENTICAL EARS.

AND? WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT?

...THAT'S WHAT HE WAS THINKING?

BEHIND THAT SMUG SMILE OF HIS...

I THOUGHT YOU WERE JUST SOME OBNOXIOUS PREPPY GRAD STUDENT,

BUT YOU'RE PRETTY INTERESTING AFTER ALL.

I FIND PEOPLE LIKE YOU OBNOXIOUS AS WELL,

BUT YOU'RE ALSO QUITE AMUSING.

URGH...

PFFT

HA HA HA

AOI-SAN?

I'M SORRY. IT'S JUST...

YOU SEEM SURPRISINGLY IN TUNE WITH EACH OTHER.

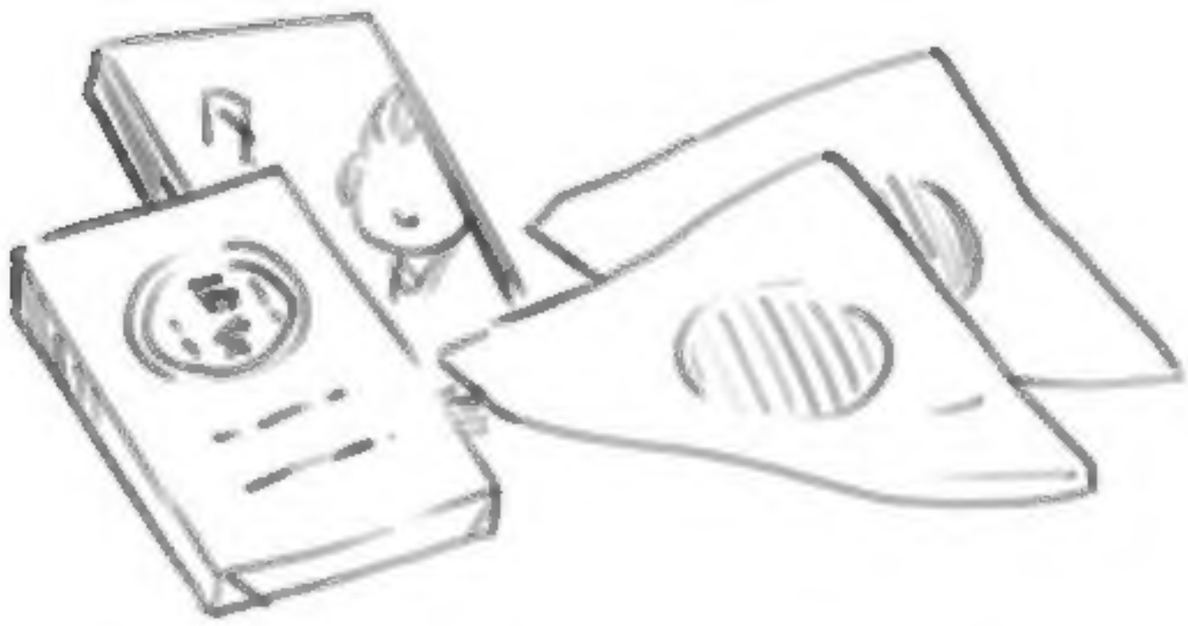
WHAT, SERIOUSLY?

I ABSOLUTELY DISAGREE!

YEAH, THEY'RE A GREAT PAIR.

CHAPTER 6
END

KYOTO NOTES
TRADITIONAL SOUVENIR!
FRESH YATSUHASHI



YOU CAN BUY FRIED ONES, OR JUST THE SKINS!

IN ADDITION TO BASIC CINNAMON AND GREEN TEA, THERE'S ALSO STRAWBERRY, BANANA, CHOCOLATE, BLACK SESAME, AND SEASONAL FLAVORS! ENJOY THEM ALL! I LOVE THESE!

Holmes at

京都寺町三条のホームズ

Kyoto Teramachi Sanjo